# **Czech Trade Focus**

### **GOOD NEWS FROM THE CZECH COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN THE USA / FEBRUARY 2003**

IN THIS ISSUE ☐ Focused on Czech Biotechnology ☐ Guide to Czech Aviation and Aerospace Industry ☐ Dine Czech in the United States ☐ New Information Technology Ministry

#### CZECH ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The third quarter 2002 GDP growth was 3.5%, which improved the growth in 2002 to 2.7%.

The third quarter current account deficit reached a record high of USD 1.66 bn (4.8% of GDP). The cabinet has begun discussions on public finance reform

The trade deficit for 2002 was CZK 74.5 bn (USD 2.48 bn), less than in 2001. Exports fell by 1.4% in monetary value, imports dropped by 4.3%. Values were affected by the strong crown and lower raw material prices.

Export of cars and car parts rose 6% in 2002 and accounted for 44% of total exports. About 72% of cars and car parts produced were exported. Domestic new car sales fell by 3.5% last year, but are expected to rise 2-3% this year (150,000 units). Motorcycle sales rose 31% to 12,975 units last year.

Industrial production rose by 4.7% year-on-year in November, following a steady trend after the August fall due to the floods. Construction output rose by 3.5% year-on-year in October and 2.3% in November. Producer prices fell y-b-y by 0.7% In December.

The state budget deficit was CZK 41.7 bn (USD 1.36 bn) at the end of November and reached CZK 45.7 bn (USD 1.49 bn) for the full year,

which is bellow the approved level. Budget revenue last year reached CZK 705.04 bn (USD 23.5 bn), compared to expenditures of CZK 750.76 bn (USD 25.0 bn). The revenue side improved due to more income in corporate tax, VAT due to higher Christmas retail sales, and interest savings.

Consumer prices increased by 0.6% y-b-y of December, while at the same time inflation fell to its annual lowest value 1.8%. Record low inflation leaves room for the Czech National Bank to cut interest rates again.

Unemployment increased to 9.8% at the end of year, up from the mid-year's 8.7%.

Czech stocks provided the best return of any investment last year. The shares rose by 17% in crown terms, but the return was 44% in dollar terms. Surprisingly, Czechs are not very interested in buying dollar- or euro-denominated funds yet.

Average monthly wages rose to CZK 15,422 (USD 505.5) in the fourth quarter. A survey by Pew Research Institute in 44 countries found that Czechs are among the more optimistic about their living standards. Only 6% of Czechs consider their living standard low, 53% say they are middle-class, and 41% consider themselves to be upper class.

## **NEWLY ESTABLISHED MINISTRY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

As of January 1, 2003, the new Czech ministry for telecommunications and information technology has taken over the responsibility for post & telecom. Ministry is to oversee that 25% of the government agenda is carried out electronically and that at least 50% of the population is computer literate. Ministry's goal is also to create more competitive telecommunications environment, give support to e-business and fulfill the EU candidate countries initiatives eEurope+, IDA, e-Content and TESTA.

eEurope+ initiative should fasten the economic transformation of EU candidate countries, their competitiveness and social cohesiveness. The program will secure a full integration in the eEurope 2005 program (the current EU member countries' program for the support of modern information technologies). Many of the eEurope+ goals are directly linked with the Ministry's set targets - faster, safer and cheaper internet access, liberalization of telecommunication industry, educative programs for modern information technology literacy support, establish the internet as a common tool that would enable transparent communication between people and administration.

IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrations) focuses on building e-applications that would capacitate exchange of data between administrative bodies of the EU member countries, applied f.i. to the movement of citizens and business activity in whole region. TESTA is an all-European communication net, similar to the internet, restrained for the information flow among public administrative bodies. It is the first essential step that secures that the EU candidate countries will be able to

keep up with the information structure of the EU ones they join the EU egovernment.

*e-Content* is a market oriented program dedicated to supporting an easy access to the latest digital technologies and products and services in the public and private sectors. The program stimulates economic growth and creates employment opportunities and even gives financial support to the best selected projects.

The new IT Ministry will start a national IT education program sponsored by Intel. The courses, aimed at increasing computer literacy, are open to the Czechs for symbolic \$3. The courses will be held mostly in Internet cafes and libraries

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## **BILATERAL TRADE**

#### Bilateral trade U.S.- Czech Republic 1998 - 2002 (combined statistics, \$ mil.)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	111.2002
U.S. imports	673	754	1071	1118,5	1123,6
U.S. exports	1082,2	1169,7	1423,9	1452,0	1200,9
Total turnover	1755,2	1923,7	2494,9	2570,5	2324,5
Balance	409,2	415,7	352,9	333,5	77,3

U.S. imports (U.S. Customs Statistics), U.S. exports (Czech Customs Statistics), 2002: January - November

This combined Czech and U.S. statistics comparison, the most realistic perspective on bilateral trade, indicates continuing growth of U.S. imports from the CR. Electric machinery, electric and electronic components and engineering parts contribute to the most increases in 2002. The volume of U.S. exports depends a great deal on the export of civil civilian aircrafts. Apparently, bilateral trade was more balanced in 2002 than in previous years.

## FOCUSED ON THE CZECH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY / GUIDE TO CZECH AVIATION R&D AND MANUFACTURING

## History

The Czech aviation industry was founded immediately after the establishment of independent Czechoslovakia in 1918. It soon became one of the most important industrial branches of the country. After the Second World War it even became a strategic industrial branch. Experts and fans know well that in 1950's, 3.600 MIG fighters under license, were built in the Czech Republic. Later, the Czech industry was known for L29 jet trainers (3,600 produced) and also for 3,000 L39 aircraft (3,000 made). Besides military aircrafts, the industry developed and produced sports, tourist, trainer, small transport and agriculture planes. The engines applied were exclusively of Czech origin. The 1980s saw an extensive upgrade of the L39 aircraft and the development of a new civil 40-seater, L-610. The new L39 version, known as L59, became the culprit for the new L159 light combat and trainer jet manufactured by Aero Vodochody in cooperation with US aviation firms. The 1990's brought disintegration of the industry, drop in a number of employees, along with the necessity of diverting marketing from Russian and Eastern European markets towards world market and partnering with the industry's global leaders.

## **Today's Industry**

The L159 light combat trainer produced by Aero Vodochody is the first fully NATO compatible military aircraft produced in the Czech Republic and to a great extent equipped with mostly U.S. technology. All Czech aviation manufacturers have adequate capabilities, know-how, design & testing centers and manufacturing facilities, thus making them an ideal source of components supplies, OEM arrangements and problem solving partners. Czech aviation manufacturers are ISO9001 and higher certified.

Recently, the Czech aviation firms have become part of the global supply chain in aviation industry and partners of the world's leading corporations. Walter Co., maker of turbo prop engines, turbines and parts thereof, has signed a long-term agreement with Rolls-Royce to produce components for RR's Trent 599 & 700 engines.

Walter, the Prague aircraft engines manufacturer, owned by the Florida company Novus, plans to launch overhauls of older King Air and Cessna airplanes and such, replacing their engines by their own. The project is carried out together with American firms Seagull Aviation and Lone Star. Yearly capacity is estimated 20 to 30 aircrafts, i.e. 40 to 60 Walter's turboprop engines, that would represent volume of \$10 mil. This range of engines only competitor is the Canadian company Pratt & Whitney.

Sikorsky chose the Czech Aero Vodochody as the best source for helicopters' structures. Several U.S. based aviation manufactures are looking at the Czech Republic with great interest. Aviation production constitutes a considerable portion of Czech exports to the U.S. In 2002, the US Air Force Academy chose to replace its sailplanes fleet with the popular Czech Blanik gliders made by Letecke zavody (merged LET & Moravan Aeroplanes).

## Association of the Aviation Manufacturers

The Czech Association of Aircraft Manufacturers currently associates 40 manufacturers and institutions active in:

- R&D, production, overhaul and repairs of light combat and trainer jets, small transport, trainer, special-purpose and sports planes;
- R&D, production and repairs of turboprop and aircraft engines;
- development and production of airport equipment;
- applied research and testing;
- ground service and maintenance of aircrafts (Czech national carrier CSA and other airlines), traffic control

The association's members employ about 10,000 workers. About 15% work in R&D, which corresponds to the level common at SME's in the EU countries. Aircrafts represent 77%, engines 8% and related aviation equipment 15% of the current industry output. The Czech Aviation Association became the first and only non-EU member of the European Association of Aerospace Industries, AECMA.

## CZECH AIRCRAFT & AEROSPACE MANUFACTURERS

## Aero Vodochody, a.s.

Frantisek Bilek – Aerostructure Business Unit Director

250 07 Odolena Voda phone: +420.2.688.5850 <u>frank.bilek@aero.cz</u>

The company focuses on development, production and services in the military jet trainer and light attack aircraft and civil turboprop utility aircraft. Services include welding, airframe structure assemblies, el. harnesses fabrication, aircraft systems installations and testing, ground tests and test flights and aircraft overhauling. Production of the parts, structure and assemblies and aircrafts are subcontracted

for both military and civil sectors. Aero Vodochody is ISO 9001:1994 Quality System by KEMA certified and approved to D1-9000 BQS by the Boeing Company.

Avia Propeller, s.r.o.

P.O.Box 22 250 02 Stara Boleslav fax: +420.202.811.818 tel: +420.202.810108 mhybs@atlas.cz

<u>mujweb.cz/www/aviapropeller</u> Jaroslav Kohout – Production Manager Avia Propeller activity spans from machine tool manufacturing (high strenght steel sand aluminium alloys), research and development, repair, overhaul servicing and sale of all metal aircraft in flight pitch changeable propellers and their parts designed for general aviation - sport and aerobatics, agricultural and small size airplanes.

CSA / Czech Airlines - Technical Division

K letisti 1 160 08 Praha 6 – Ruzyne tel: +420.2.2011.4227 fax: +420.2.3332.4860

Tomas Heczko – Executive Vice President Petr Munz – Manager Marketing and Sales tomas.heczko@tu.csa.cz petr.munz@tu.csa.cz maintenance.csa.cz

Maintenance branch of Czech national carrier, aircraft maintenance for other airlines.

### Evektor - Aerotechnik, a.s.

Letiste 686 04 Kunovice tel: +420.632.537.313 fax: +420.632.537.900 Milan Mach – Project Manager mmach@evektor.cz

mmach(a)evektor.cz

Design and engineering subassemblies and assemblies, prototypes manufacturing, testing, certification.

## Jihlavan, a.s.

Znojemska 64 586 52 Jihlava tel: +420.66.7115.682

fax: +420.66.7310.187 <u>market@jihlavan.cz</u> <u>www.jihlavan.cz</u>

Vladimir Hlavicka - Managing Director

Production of hydraulic actuators, valves and accessories for the aircraft industry, hydraulic, valves, cylinders and accessories for roadmaking, earth-moving and forestry mechanization.

#### Jihostroj, a.s.

Budejovicka 148 382 32 Velesin tel: +420.336.340.511 fax: +420.336.340.612 sales.ad@jihostroj.cz www.jihostroj.cz

Jiri Gerle - General Manager

Manufacturing of precise electronic products for aircraft and hydraulics.

## Kras Chornice a.s.

Nadrazni 10 569 42 Chobornice tel: +420.462.331.060 fax: +420.462.331052 kras-chornice@iol.cz Vratislav Maly – Director

The company supplies parachutes and parachute equipment.

## Let, a.s.

1177 Kunovice 686 04 Kunovice tel: +420.632.511.111 fax: +420.632.613.52 let@let.cz

<u>let(a),let.cz</u> <u>www.let.cz</u>

Development, production, assembly, marketing, sale, maintenance, repair and product support of L 410, L420 and L 610 turbopop aeroplanes and L 23 Super Blanik, L 33 Solo and L 13 AC Blanik sailplanes, production of spare parts, subcontracting production of aeroplane assemblies.

U.S. representative: **Blanik America Inc.** P.O.Box 1124

Wenatchee, WA 98807-1124 Phone: 509.884.8305

Fax: 509.884.8305

General infromation: <u>blanikam@nwi.net</u> Sales and Customer Support: <u>viteks@aol.com</u>

Blanik America Inc. is the exclusive distributor of LET sailplanes in the USA, Canada and Mexico

## Letov - ATG, s.r.o.

Beranovych 65 199 02 Praha – Letnany tel: +420.2.6611.2371 fax: +420.2.6611.2760 lacom@pha.inecnet.cz/lacom www.pha.inecnet.cz/lacom Josef Krena – General Manager

Development and production of aircraft composite parts.

## Letov – letecka vyroba

Beranovych 65
199 02 Praha – Letnany
tel: +420.2.6611.3227
fax: +420.2.8590.553
llv@llv.cz
malcek@llv.cz
www.llv.cz

Petr Malcek - Commercial Manager

Machined parts and subassemblies.

## Letov Stimulatory

Beranovych 65 199 02 Praha – Letnany tel: +420.2.6611.2264 fax: +420.2.826.545 lsim@mbox.volny.cz

Zdenek Capek – Marketing Manager

Flight stimulators, design and manufacture of a wide range of training systems.

## Letecke pristroje Praha, Ltd.

Pod Hajkem 1 180 00 Praha 8 tel: +420.2.8300.7110 fax: +420.2.6848.444 jvyhnalek@iol.cz Josef Vlastnik – Director

Design, production, testing and integration of electromechanical and electronic equipment for civilian and military aircrafts.

## LOK - Duncan

Touzimska 583 197 03 Praha – Kbely tel: +420.2.8507.682 tel: +420.2.8501.251 lokkbely@mbox.vol.cz Josef Plsek – Business Director

Maintenance of planes and helicopters, helicopters overhaul, repairs of any aircraft technology.

## LOK - Duncan Aviation, Ltd.

Airport Kbely Mladoboleslavska P.O.Box 3 197 21 Praha 9 – Kbely tel: +420.2.8507.740 fax: +420.2.8507.741 <u>ldavion@mbox.vol.cz</u> <u>ldparts@mbox.vol.cz</u> Jaroslav Najman – CEO

Service for the general aviation operators.

## Lom Praha, s.p.

Cernokostelecka 270 100 38 Praha 10 – Malesice fax: +420.2.7065.623 lompraha@mbox.vol.cz www.lom.cz

Vaclav Miskovsky - Commercial Director

Aircraft engine overhauls and repairs.

## Mikrotechna Praha, a.s. Aicraft Engines

Barrandova 409
143 11 Praha 4
tel: +420.2.6131.3515
fax: +420.2.4025.635
vosecky@mikrotechna.cz
Lan Vosecky — Deputy Gener

Jan Vosecky - Deputy General Manager

Design, manufacture, repair and testing of aircraft appliances and special testing equipment, manufacture of precise parts.

## Moravan - Aeroplanes, Inc.

Letiste 1578 765 81 Otrokovice tel: +420.67.7673.901 fax: +420.67.7922.103 mfbusiness@atlas.cz

Jiri Vitek - Commercial Director

Manufacturer of ZLIN Z-143L – all-metal fourseater training and sportive airplane

ZLIN Z-242L – all-metal four-seater training and sportive airplane

ZLIN Z-137T – turbopop agricultural and firefighting aircraft

Aircraft components manufacturing:

Wing buoyancy mechanism (L-610 – ATR 42 like airplane)

Horizontal tail sections (L-39, L-59, L-59 training and fighter aircraft)

Rudders (L-39, L-59, L-159)
Ejection seats (L-39, L-59, L-159)
Wheels, brakes (L-39, L-59, L-159)
Control pedals (Diamond)
Nose landing gear (Diamond)
Engine mounting (Vulcan Air)
Cowlings (Vulcan Air)

Air Cargo containers for airlines

Transport pallet systems Automobile and aircraft safety seat-belts

## Prvni Brnenska Strojirna Velka Bites, a.s.

Vlkovska 279 594 12 Velka Bites tel: +420.619.513.130 fax: +420.619.962.595 pbsvb@pbsvb.cz www.pbs.cz/pbs/pbsvb

Aircraft gas turbines working as air generators for aircraft starting systems, castings of carbon steel, high-alloy steel and superalloy nickel and cobalt base.

## SVUM, Plc.

P.O.Box 17 190 11 Praha 9 – Bechovice tel: +420.2.6274.364 fax: +420.2.6277.641 svum.krejcik@volny.cz www.volwet.cz/svum Jiri Krejcik - Director Research, developing, testing, manufacturing and training.

Skoda JS, a.s.

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fax: +420.19.524.755
<u>rzdebor@jad.ln.skoda.cz</u>
<u>www.skoda.cz/companies/js</u>

Roman Zdebor - Marketing Manager

Development and manufacturing of aerospace components, landing gear parts (hinges, struts, shafts, rings, pins, control rods, hydraulic manifolds, including assembly and subassemblies), machined parts and components of aircraft structure, aircraft engine parts, parts and components of aircraft weapon systems.

Technometra Radotin, a.s.

Vrazska 239 153 04 Praha 5 – Radotin tel/fax: +420.2.5791.0383

Vaclav Cisar – Sales Manager

Production, testing, repair and maintenance of landing gear for the aircrafts. Manufacturing of parts – block of control, loading mechanism.

## The Aeronautical Research and Test Institute,

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ms.anet.cz/~vzlu/

Karel Paiger - Business development

Research, development and certification of aircraft and aeronautical technology in high speed aerodynamics, low speed aerodynamics, strength of the aircraft, aircraft propellers, aircraft system tests, environmental testing, prototype model design and manufacture, engineering design, hydraulics and acoustics, flight tests, aeronautical regulations and standards and information center.

Walter a.s.

Jinonicka 329 158 01 Praha 5 - Jinonice tel: +420.2.5104.1100

fax: +420.2.5721.1430 <u>mcerny@walter.cz</u> <u>www.walter.cz</u>

Michal Cerny - Commercial Director

Major European manufacturer of the turbopop engines ranging from 500 to 800 s.h.p. Walter can produce custom made parts for aviation and non aviation use (till diameter 500 mm)

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

#### History and future

Biotechnology has a long and rich history in the Czech Republic - beer and sugar industries date back to the 16th century, foundations of modern genetics were laid in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Czech scientist Gregor Mendel, who identified the laws of heredity. In the same period, Jan Evangelista Purkyne has established dactyloscopy, and published new findings in embryology, blood circulation, eye and skin treatment among others. In the 20th century, Dr.Jan Jansky identified four blood groups, Nobel prize winner professor Jaroslav Heyrovsky invented polarography, a method for simple identification of compounds in solutions. Modern gel contact lenses were invented by O. Wichterlein in 1961. Looking at the most recent history, biotech research has been a great success. Czech Academy of Sciences prides itself with inventing active ingredients in drugs which are becoming blockbusters in the US: Vistide(cidofovir), Viread(tenofovir) and most recently Adefovir Dipivoxil.

Given the high intellectual potential and positive investment climate, Czech Republic has become favorite location for foreign direct investment in the region for companies like Lonza Biotech, Baxter, Ivax, Beckman Coulter, Pliva, ICN Pharmaceuticals, Polypeptide Laboratories, while other have started their clinical trials (AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, Aventis, Janssen-Cilag, etc.) are now negotiating their investment plans.

Baxter located two facilities near Prague, Czech Republic and Vienna, Austria, the two facilities will allow the company to significantly expand its vaccine production capacity and provide for the larger-scale commercial launch of InfluJect in Europe beginning in 2004.

Word from Thomas Glanzmann, President of Baxter's BioScience: "We believe the combination of these two new facilities will provide us

with greater flexibility in responding to worldwide demand for specific vaccines and will position us well for the successful launch of InfluJect."

#### Patent protection

According to the International Pharmaceutical Association, Czech Republic has excellent patent protection based on EU – harmonized legislation, protection so-called TMPS plus status (length of the patent protection period: 20 years, SPC (Supplementation Protection Certificate): Harmonized legislation (Act No. 597/1992 Coll.), Pipeline protection, TRIPS plus Status, Length of patent protection period: 20 years, Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC), "Roche-Bolar"- principle not accepted.

## **Major Foreign Investors**

BAXTER INTERNATIONAL / production of vaccines ARROW INTERNATIONAL / medical technology

RODENSTOCK / medical technology

MONSANTO -Lonza Biotec / fermentation technologies for different applications

IVAX CORP. - Galena / pharmaceutical production, distribution, research including substances, chemicals and therapeutic cosmetics.

ICN Dutch Holdings B.V. / production of pharmaceuticals, chemicals and plant products

ALPHA DIALAB GmbH / production of biotechnological and laboratory equipment

LABIO Ltd. / biotechnological food industry

Syngenta Participations AG / research, production and development of vegetable seed for biotechnology

MELCOR TECHNOLOGIES / diagnostic laboratory for biotechnology and cytogenetic + production of products for biotechnology

## **COMPANIES & BUSINESS**

## Expected changes in economy and trade

The new year is expected to bring the following changes in the economy and trade for 2003: a drop in residential electricity rates; an increase in residential natural-gas, water and heating rates; higher cigarette and alcohol taxes (perhaps as of April 1); faster bank transfers; higher fees at Czech Savings Bank (Ceska sporitelna), but better protection of loss or theft of bank cards; and higher trading fees at the RM-System. Other changes include an increase in the warranty on consumer goods o meet the EU standard of two years; better protection against bureaucracy with the launch of the Supreme Administrative Court; higher pensions (approx.

CZK 500 per month), increase in the minimum wage; the transfer of hospitals from state to regional ownership; higher co-payments for some drugs; and the withdrawal from circulation of 10 and 20 heller coins as of June 1.

## Real wages

Wages are expected to rise in 2003 by 6-7%, compared to an expected rise in prices of 2%, which means an effective increase in real wages and purchasing power. Higher wages may push unemployment above 10%.

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#### Czech trade unions

The influence of trade unions in Czech industry is weakening. In 1991 almost 4.4 million people were trade union members, compared to less than 2.3 million in 1995 and around 900,000 currently.

#### Flood recovery

The Prague metro system, damaged by the floods last August, should be in full operation by February. The damaged power grid in Prague, however, will not be fully restored until the summer of 2004. The nation's capital recovered relatively quickly and is ready to welcome back foreign tourists. Economists suggest that Czech economy has also recovered from the floods.

#### Pension reform

A plan for Czech pension reform was inspired by the Swedish system. It calls for creating individual retirement accounts and allowing contributors to decide when to retire. There would be no legally established retirement age, but those who did not work long enough would not be eligible for full benefits. The World Bank would act as an adviser on implementing the program. The state is reportedly considering using the proceeds from selling power utilities CEZ to fund the gradual shift from the current system to the new one.

#### **Education to improve**

The CR must make a great effort to catch up to the EU in terms of education. The EU wants to compete on an even footing with the U.S., which will require more investment into modernizing the educational system. More than 20% of Europeans have a university education. Brussels wants new EU members to devote more money to education.

#### **Electricity market**

The cabinet has addressed new measures for liberalizing the electricity market for households and small companies as of 2005. Small companies with consumption of more than 100 MWh per year would be able to choose their supplier beginning next year. According to Alstom's Country Manager, the CR must put a clear energy policy on the table to start an effective energy market.

## **Energy industry**

The Czech antitrust office approved the merger of regional power distributors with CEZ and the sale of the CEPS grid company to the state, but with some restrictions. CEZ may buy shares in the eight distributors but within one year must sell its minority stakes in JCE, JME and PRE and its entire stake in any one of the remaining distributors. This would leave CEZ with four out of the eight distributors. CEZ must also sell its full stake

in CEPS to the state. (It must sell the remaining 34% within a year.) Experts say the decision means that CEZ and E.ON will divide up the market.

#### Telecommunications

Aliatel became the first alternative operator to offer carrier choice, which allows customers to permanently choose a new primary telecom provider. Czech Telecom said it is in negotiations with five other providers. (Contactel, GTS, eTel, Czech On Line and Tiscali). Also, Czech Telecom is likely to start talks on taking over cell phone operator Eurotel. Telecom holds a 50% stake in Eurotel, but has yet to reach an agreement with U.S. shareholders. The acquisition would be the best way of increasing Telecom's value prior to its final privatization.

#### SMS charges

Czech T-Mobile will begin charging as of February for SMS messages sent from its web site. Oskar and Eurotel will be watching the market reactions. In general, cell phones became extremely popular in the Czech Republic due to free SMS messaging, especially among students.

## American Style Supermarkets Boom

The North Bohemian district of Usti nad Labem has the largest area of hypermarkets per inhabitant with 239 square meters/person. Hradec Kralove comes in second with 185 sq. meters, followed by Ostrava with 175. The Czech Republic has a larger density of mall-type supermarkets than Austria.

#### **Factory outlets**

At the cost of \$36 mil., Freeport of the U.K. will open a factory outlet center at the Czech-Austrian border in the Hate duty-free zone. It will be a the factory outlet in the CR and will sell discontinued luxury goods at reported 30% discount. The development will have 80 shops and restaurants.

## Rapid-rail system from the airport

Prague City Hall is considering a project to connect the Prague airport with the neighboring city of Kladno by a rapid-rail system and to extend the Prague metro to the airport.

## Diamonds trade stopped

The import and export of diamonds will be forbidden in the Czech Republic starting Feb. 1 because the country has not passed legislation ensuring the Kimberly process rules, which are designed to prevent the illegal trading of diamonds.

## **EU WATCH**

European history was written in Copenhagen at the EU summit meeting on December 12-13, 2003. At the historic summit 10 states concluded membership negotiations, paving their way to enter the EU in 2004. The 10 likely to join in 2004 are: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The countries will need to ratify a Treaty of Accession. Suppose all goes well, they will join in May 2004 and participate in the next European Parliament elections in June 2004.

The accession stands for political stability, democracy, human rights, and protection of minorities. This enlargement will bring a population of nearly 100 million into a common economic area with a total population of nearly 500 million. This will create the world's largest single market, excellently equipped to meet the challenges of global competition. The Czech Republic will reap the benefits of its central location in the single market.

## **INVESTMENT UPDATE**

## U.S. Ambassador on Czech Investment Climate

On January 10th, 2003, BCIU (Business Council for International Understanding) held a luncheon in NYC with H.E. Craig Stapleton, U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. The Ambassador's remarks endorsed the effectiveness of the bilateral U.S. – Czech investment treaty, which was instrumental in bringing U.S. investment into the Republic. He favorably described the Czech economic climate and qualification of Czech workforce. Mr Stapleton also suggested that the CR should not exclusively concentrate on manufacturing projects, but also attract projects in services According to the Ambassador, in 2003 U.S. companies will be looking at expansions of existing facilities rather than placing new large projects in the CR.

## Foreign direct investment

Despite the continuing recession in the global economy the Czech Republic still sustains a high volume of foreign investment. The inflow of FDI for the first three quarters of 2002 reached a record \$7.1 billion USD, the highest annual inflow ever recorded (compared to 2.9 bn in Slovakia, 2.6 bn in Poland and 0.9 bn in Hungary). This reflects completion of large state assets privatization, but also significant investments implemented by manufacturing companies (50%). The FDI per capita level remains the highest among Central and Eastern European countries.

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## Better climate for 2003 projects

In 2003 the Czech Republic will continue to focus on new projects in electronics, electrical engineering, aerospace and medical technology, and of course the automotive sector and precision engineering. In early 2003 the Czech government is expected to propose improvements in the country's investment climate. This should involve issues such as misuse of social benefits, granting visas and work permits for foreigners, more effective customs administration and functioning public administration in general.

## Honeywell establishes Global Design Center in Brno

Honeywell Automation and Control Solutions announced its intention to establish a Global Design Center in Brno, CR. The center will focus on product design and act as an extension of the global engineering teams in North America and Western Europe. Honeywell currently operates four divisions in the Czech Republic focused on automation and controls sales, aerospace support and automotive sensors. The new Honeywell design center will build on the existing manufacturing presence. The company currently has two factories in Brno, both of which are planned to undergo significant expansion starting early in 2003. Honeywell said the decision was based on the good experience in the CR.

## Industrial zones in the North Moravian region take off

Since 1998 there have been 8 industrial zones prepared in the North Moravian region under s Program to Support Industrial Zone Development. Investors most interested in this region are from the automotive and processing industries. The zones comprise a total area

of 203.7 hectares. The industrial zones are in following locations: Krnov

- Cerveny dvur , Trinec – Baliny , Frydek-Mistek – Chlebovice, Tranovice Business Park, Karvina - Nova Pole, Koprivnice Industrial Park. Also intensive preparations are on the way to complete a 280-hectare strategic industrial zone in Nosovice, which is intended for the location of a strategic investor. New industrial zones are being created in other North Moravian locations.

## Italian IVG Colbachini starts new plant construction

Italian company IVG Colbachini, world's leading manufacturer of rubber hoses, has launched construction of its first ever foreign manufacturing plant in the industrial zone in Krnov in the Moravian-Silesian region. IVG

Colbachini's produces industrial rubber hoses. The total amount of investment will exceed \$10 mil. The project will reap the benefits of incentives for projects located in areas with high unemployment. Production is to begin in August 2003 with an output of 1 million meters of rubber hose. The IVG Colbachini S.p.A. group adds its new facility to their production chain, which employs over 1400 employees globally and is made up of 11 companies in total.

#### DaimlerChrysler new acquisition

EvoBus Bohemia, owned by DaimlerChrysler, will double the capacity of its Czech bus body plant in a \$10m expansion and add 300 people to the current staff.

## U.S. Parker Hannifin to expand

U.S. based global automotive and aircraft parts manufacturer Parker Hannifin announced an expension of its Chomutov pad factory this year. Within three years the firm will employ 900 people in this location.

### English & German most widespread foreign languages

Language skills among Czechs aged 18 – 59 are best in English, while German is the most widespread foreign language, recent study confirmed. Czechs have a relatively high command of foreign languages; only one fourth of respondents claimed to have no knowledge of another language.

#### CzechInvest attracted over \$1 bil. of new investment

CzechInvest mediated 64 new investment projects in the Czech Republic in 2002, which represent investment worth \$1.041 bil. In 2002 the Ministry of Industry & Trade decided to grant state aid under the Investment Incentives Act to 55 projects. The viability of the Ministry's entirely new program to support technology centers and strategic services is confirmed by the series of new R&D and technology centers projects.

#### CzechchInvest to support SME's

CzechInvest, the government's investment promotion agency, will take on the added role of supporting SME's by merging with the Czech Business Development Agency. The agency would thus become a government counterpart to the Economic Chamber and Confederation of Industry and Transport. The focus is to shift from marketing to business development. The agency helped attract \$1.04bn in investment commitments last year.

## SERVICES FOR US COMPANIES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

## Graphic design

Czech graphic design studio provides web design, brochures design and printing and company presentation on CD-ROM.

NEXUS Multimedia A. Staska 30 140 00 Praha 4

phone: + 420 22213 5327 fax: + 420 22213 5326 info@nexpro.cz

www.nexpro.cz

Foreign Investors Consulting

The company can help a foreign investor to understand Czech law regulations, provides

accounting services and help with establishing the office.

ASB Prague, s.r.o. tel.: +420 2 24 93 13 69 fax: +420 2 24 93 13 68

cell:+420 603 15 44 69 rvrestal@asbprague.com www.asbprague.com Mr. Rudolf Vrestal eBusiness solutions

ILikeThis Pobrezni 16 186 00 Praha 8

phone: 011.420.2.341.342.23 fax: 011.420.2.341.342.31

www.ilike this.cz

v.havranek@iltsolutions.com Mr. Vojtech Havranek **Packaging solutions** 

INVOS offers a wide range of packaging solutions on LDPE basis, multi-layered co-extrusion films of targeted features for food and other products, including flexographic printing.

Na Micance 31 160 00 Praha 6 praha@invos.cz www.invos.cz

Ms. Lucie Planetova

## DINE CZECH / CZECH RESTAURANTS AROUND THE UNITED STATES

→ ARIZONA Mountain View Restaurant

1220 E Prince Road Tucson, AZ 85719 phone: 520.293.0375

→ CALIFORNIA **Cafe Prague**584 Pacific Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94133
phone: 415.433.3811

**Czech Point Restaurant** 

1981 Artesia Blvd. Redondo Beach, CA 90278 phone: 310.374.7791

Little Prague

Bohemian Restaurant and Bakery 330 G Street Davis, CA 95616 tel: 530.756.1107

Dagmar's Cafe

514 N. La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90048 Tel: (310) 652-1167

Farmer's Wife/Little Prague 330 G Street #F Davis, CA. 95616 Tel: (530) 756-1107

Vladimir's Czechoslovakian 12785 Sir Francis Drake Blvd

12785 Sir Francis Drake Blvd Inverness, CA 94937 Tel: (415) 669-1021

→ COLORADO The Bohemian Cottage 8039 West USA Highway 36 Loveland, CO Tel: (970) 667-3718

Marie`s Inn 400 Mountain Ave Bethod, CO Tel: (970) 532-2648

Golden Europe Restaurant 6620 Wadsworths Blvd. Arvada, CO 80003 phone.: 303.425.1246

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**Old Prague Inn** 

7521 Ute Hwy. (Colorado Hwy.66) Longmont, CO Tel: (303) 772-6374

→ GEORGIA

**Janousek's Restaurant** 1475 Holcomb Bridge Rd. Roswell, GA

Tel: (770) 587 2075

Janousek's G+W Restaurant

5450 Peachtree Parkway, NW Norcross, GA Tel: (770) 449 8585

Marra's Seafood Grill

1782 Cheshire Bridge Road, NE Atlanta, GA

Tel: (404) 874 7347

**Summer Street Restaurant** 

2689 Summer Str. Kennesaw, GA Tel: (770) 792 2281

 $\rightarrow$  FLORIDA

Bohemia Restaurant & Bar

3100 Flagler Ave. Key West, FL 33040 phone: 305.295.3773 fax: 305.293.7298 www.bohemia.qpg.com

 $\rightarrow$  ILLINOIS

L & J Lounge 6513 W Cermak Rd

Berwyn, IL 60402 phone: 708.788.9570

**Alpine Banquet Haus** 

11141 Roosevelt Road Westchester, IL 60154 tel.: (708) 409-8640

**Bohemian Crystal** 

639 Blackhawk Drive Westmont, IL 60559 Tel: (630) 789-1981

**Bohemian Garden** 

980 W. 75th Downers Grove, IL Tel: (630) 960-0078 Chateau Rose

5830 Cermak Road Cicero, IL 60804 Tel: (708) 656-5690

**Corner Restaurant** 

9201 Broadway Avenue Brookfield, IL 60513 Tel: (708) 485-5660

Czech Kitchens

8733 W. Pershing Road Stickney, IL 60402 Tel: (708) 749-7868

Czech Plaza

7016 W. Cermak Road Berwyn, IL 60402 Tel: (708) 795-6555

**Dumpling House** 

4109 Harlem Avenue Stickney, IL 60402 Tel: (708) 484-6733

**Dumpling Villa** 

300 E. St. Charles Road Villa Park, IL 60181 Tel: (630) 834-9565

Golden Duck

500 W. Ogden Avenue Downers Grove, IL Tel: (630) 968-8887

Klas Restaurant

5734 W. Cermak Road Cicero, IL 60804 Tel: (708) 652-0795

Little Bohemia

25 E. Burlington Riverside, IL 60546 Tel: (708) 442-1251

Moldau Restaurant

9310 W. Ogden Ave. Brookfield, IL 60513 tel: 708.485.2155

Little Europe

9208 Ogden Avenue Brookfield, IL 60513 Tel: (708) 485-1112 Little Europe

241 E. Lake Bloomingdale, IL Tel: (630) 894-8030

Moldau

9310 Ogden Avenue Brookfield, IL 60513 Tel: (708) 485-2155

Pilsner

6725 Cermak Road Berwyn, IL 60402 Tel: (708) 484-2294

**Riverside Restaurant** 

3422 S. Harlem Avenue Riverside, IL 60546 Tel: (708) 442-0434

Westchester Inn

3069 S. Wolf Road Westchester, IL 60154 Tel: (708) 409-1313

 $\rightarrow$  IOWA

Zindrick's Czech Restaurant 86 - 16th Avenue SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404 Tel: (319) 365-5257

→ NEBRASKA

**Hotel Wilber** 

Restaurant & Czech Cellar 2nd & Wilson St. Wilber, NE phone:1.888.332.1937, 402.821.2020

**Bohemian Cafe** 

1406 S 13th St., Omaha, NE 68108 (402) 342-9838

→ NEW YORK CITY

Andrusha

1370 Lexington Ave New York, NY 10028 TEL: (212) 369-9374

Zlata Praha Restaurant

28-46 31st Street Astoria, Queens NY 11102 phone: 718-721-6422 718-728-9199 www.zlatapraha.com

Nimrod's

413 East 70th Street New York, NY 10021 TEL: (212) 650-9687

**Bohemian Hall and Park** 

29-19 24th Avenue Astoria, Queens NY 11102 phone: 718-274-4925

phone: 718-274-4925 www.bohemianhall.com

Koliba Restaurant

31-11 23rd Avenue Astoria, Queens NY 11105

phone: 718-626-0430

Doma Café & Gallery

17 Perry Street Waverly Place New York, NY 10014 phone: 212 929 4339

 $\rightarrow$  OHIO

**Old Prague Restaurant** 

Vermilion, OH phone: 440.967.7182

 $\rightarrow$  OREGON

Schnitzel House 16150 82nd Dr.

Clackamas, Oregon 97015 Tel: (503) 657-3388

**CI.** (005) 007 5500

→ VIRGINIA **The Monastery**443 Granby Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Tel: (757) 625-8193

→WASHINGTON Labuznik Restaurant

1924 1st Ave. Seattle, Washington 98101

→ WISCONSIN

Little Europe at Timber Ridge 6613 120th Avenue Kenosha, WI 53142-7309

Tel: (262) 857-9073 Toll free: (888) 647-6269 eat@mirogono.com

## **CZECH PRODUCTS IN THE U.S.**

## Czech tractors in the USA

American Jawa Ltd. 7301 Allentown Blvd. Harrisburg, PA 17111 Phone: 717.540.5618 Fax: 717.540.5863 www.amjawa.com

American Jawa Ltd. imports, distributes and services agriculture machinery and supplies spare parts. The company has been a major U.S. independent distributor since 1981.

Based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with a branch in Houston Texas, American Jawa represents three major tractor manufacturers: Czech Zetor Tractors a.s. and Humpolecke Strojirny Humpolec (front tractor loaders) and South Korean Century Tractors.In 2002, the company sold 1700 tractors throughout the USA. There are over 20,000 Zetor tractors in the United States.

Czech wine

Harvey Imports 22 Laqusta Drive Danville, California 94526 Tel.: 925/837-8250 Fax: 925/837- 325 www.czechbeer.com Milena Harvey - President Sales in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington, D.C., Washington

Becherovka liqueur

Niche Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927 tel: 888.707.7789 www.ourniche.com Becherovka liqueur

Golden State Spirits Corp. 11949 Jefferson Blvd. 106 Culver City, CA 90230 President: Mr. Rod S. Slavicek phone.: 310/822-7804 fax: 310/822-7805

Becherovka liqueur

Broadway Discount Wines & Spirits

in historic Fells Point 628 South Broadway Baltimore, MD 21231 phone: 410/563/1212 Mr. Jan Jandasek

## **CZECH COMPANIES LOOKING FOR REPRESENTATIVES, IMPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS**

#### Honey

Company Schellex is looking for business partner to export and distribute bulk honey on the US market.
Schellex
Stepankova 105

phone: + 420 469 622 384 fax: + 420 469 620 412 shellex@quick.cz Mr. Jiri Cesenek

#### Rubber pavements

537 01 Chrudim

The company offers high quality rubber pavements for heavy and light shop floors, sports fields, car parks, warehouses, driveways, schools and other places. Products have a long life endurance, absorb impacts and sounds, and are flexible and recyclable.

BEROKA Recycling

Cs. Legii 4 Ostrava 702 00

Phone: + 420 596 126 530 business-cz@seznam.cz Ms. Lenka Kusova

#### **Hand Cut Glass**

Bachmann Hand Cut Glass
439 23 Lenesice (Louny), Nova 352
phone: 415 679 229, 604 317 096
bach@centrum.cz
www.glass.vyrobce.cz
www.maturita.vyrobce.cz
Mr. Jira Bachmann

## **Electrical Cables**

KABEX, a. s. is a Czech manufacturer of miscellaneous types of electrical construction cables, halogen-free retarding power cables, installation cables, fire-proof communication cables, power, interior cables, coaxial, triaxial and compensating cables. Products are ISO 9002 certified. Kabex is looking for distributors of

their products to expand its business activities on the U.S. market.

on the U.S. market. Kabelovna KABEX, a. s. Politickych veznu 84 345 62 Holysov

Phone: (+420-379)491-557, 491-432

Fax: (+420-379)491-154 kabex@kabex.cz www.kabex.cz

KABEX, a. s. in the U.S.: 17 Larkspur Drive West islit, NY 11795 Phone: (631)587-9046 Fax: (631)321-0510 Mr. Antonín Kovar

## **Hydraulic Systems & Machine Products**

OSTROJ Opava a. s., is a manufacturer of various types of hydraulic systems, machines for mining industry, hydraulic and loading cranes, forging products, tooling and single purpose machine products and surface treated products. The company is looking for cooperation with the U.S. importers and distributors to expand its business activities in the U.S. OSTROJ Opava, a. s.

Department of Hydraulics Trinska 1586/66 746 01 Opava, Czech Republic Phone: (+420-553)872-417 Fax: (+420-553)872-415 vlckova@ostroj.cz, info@ostroj.cz www.ostroj.cz

## Ms. Gabriela Vlcková, Marketing

Hand - Knitted Textile Goods
V. NOVOTNY, a small Czech private company is a manufacturer of hand - knitted luxury goods, sweaters and socks. The company currently exports its products to Austria and Germany and is looking for cooperation with the U.S. importers and distributors.
V. NOVOTNY

Kolovratova 244 582 91 Svetla n.S. tel:+420603152317 vladimir.novotny@seznam.cz Mr. Vladimír Novotny, Manager

# Moulded, fire polished glass pieces (lenses, special, colored glass)

EcoGlass Mlynská 6a 466 01 Jablonec nad Nisou tel: 011.420.483.31.68.20 fax: 011.420.483.31.68.21 research@ecoglass.cz www.ecoglass.cz Mr. Jiri Kocarek

#### Decorative paper boxes, hearts and eggs

Orpa
Opletalova 92, Ostrovske Predmesti
563 26 Lanskroun
Czech Republic
tel: 011.420.465.386.185
fax: 011.420.465.386.105
m.dokoupil@orpa.cz
www.orpa.cz

Mr. Miroslav Dokoupil

## **Decorative ribbons**

Pemitex tel: 1.804.520.72.16 czechbizz@aol.com US Contact: Mr. O. Adamek

## Police protective equipment

Gelnar Frydlantska 1743 738 02 Frydek-Mistek tel: 011.420.556.84.33.00 fax: 011.420.556.84.33.02 mgelnar@iol.cz www.gelnar.cz Mr. Martin Gelnar

## **TRADESHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS - SPRING/SUMMER 2003**

## Brno Exhibition Center / www.bvv.cz

March 19 – 23 / Spring Consumer Goods Fairs
DOMO / International Household Articles Fair
X-ART / International Children's Goods and Toys Fair
(Office and School Articles, Gifts, Hobby and Sport)
FISHING / International Fishing Tackle Show

## April 13 - 17

IBF / International Building Fair

SHK BRNO 2003 / International Trade Fair for Sanitation, Heating, Air conditioning and Building Automation

URBIS / Investment Opportunity Forum Technology and Equipment for Towns and Communities

## April 28 - 30

IDET / International Exhibition of Defense and Security Technologies and Special Information Systems

## May 20 - 23

EmbaxPrint / International Trade Fair of Packaging, Paper and Printing Industry - materials, machines and technologies

G+H / International Trade Fair for Hotels, Restaurants and Catering

## June 7 - 12

AUTOSALON BRNO 2003 / International Motor Show

## <u>June 27 - 29</u>

PROPET / International Pet Supply and Horse Equipment Exhibition

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BRNO TROPHY / Horse Show, Competition and Exhibition INTERCANIS / International Dog Show

August 19 - 21

STYL / International Fashion Fair

conditioning and air-conditioning

KABO / International Fair of Footwear and Leatherware

## Prague Exhibition Grounds / www.icheba.cz

## February 27 - March 1

TOOLTEC / 10th exhibition of machines, tools, implements and iron PRAGOLIGNA / 6th international contracting and sales exhibition of tools, equipment, and materials for the wood processing industry

#### March 25 - 27

PRAGOREGULA – ELEXPO / 25th international trade fair for measuring, control technology, electronic automated equipment FRIGOTHERM / 6th international trade fair of cooling technology,

PRAGOTHERM / 30th international trade fair for power engineering, heating, sanitary technology, energy preservation

#### April 1 - 3

PRAGOALARM / PRAGOSEC / 12th international fair of safety equipment, systems and services, fire protection and rescue equipment

## April 8 – 11 / 25th international medical fair

HANDICAP / 7th specialized exhibition for handicapped people PRAGOMEDICA PRAGOFARMA PRAGOOPTIK

#### April 15 - 18

PRAGOLABORA

ITC PRAGUE / 5th exhibition of information technology and communication

#### **CZECH COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES**

Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C.: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin (Midwest, South, and eastern part of the West)

Contact: Ms. Veronika Lukasova, Phone: 202.274.9104 Fax: 202.244.2147, eco\_washington@embassy.mzv.cz

**Consulate General in Los Angeles**: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming (western portion of the West).

Contact: Mr. Michal Korycanek, Phone: 310.473.0889 x.229

Fax: 310.473.9813, losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz

Consulate General in New York: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont (Northeast).

Contact: Mr. Josef Dvoracek, Phone: 212.717.5643

Fax: 212.717.5064, consulate.newyork@embassy.mzv.cz
CzechTrade - Chicago Office (information on Czech products)
Phone: 312.644.1790, Fax: 312.527.5544, chicago@czechtrade.cz

CzechTrade - Miami Office (information on Czech products) Contact: Mr. Roman Matyas, Phone: 305.261.6313, Fax: 305.261.6314, miami@czechtrade.cz

#### Czech Center New York

Contact: Mr. Jan Zahour, Phone: 212.288.0830 x.106, Fax: 212.288.0971, zahour@czechcenter.com

CzechInvest - Chicago Offce (investment opportunities in the CR)

Contact: Ms. Hana Lasslerova, Phone: 312.245.0180, Fax: 312.245.0183, chicago@czechinvest.org

CzechInvest - San Jose Office (investment opportunities in the CR)

Contact: Mr. Radomil Novak, Phone: 408.376.4555, Fax: 408.376.4557, california@czechinvest.org

## **SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**

If you would like to receive Czech Trade Focus @ by e-mail, please submit your request to: eco washington@embassy.mzv.cz

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